

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /011 R

66603

DRAFTED BY: NEA/ARN:DAKORN

APPROVED BY: NEA - MR ATHERTON

IO/UNP - MR ROTHENBERG (INFO)

S/S - MR GAMMON

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O 131703Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 159707

EXDIS

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM USUN AUG 13

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2853

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNSC

SUBJECT: MISSILE EAST: SC DEBATE ON AIRCRAFT INCIDENT

1. AS OF SUNDAY EVENING WE HAVE SEEN NO DRAFT RESOLUTION. HOWEVER, SC MEMBERSHIP WILL BEGIN TO EXCHANGE THOUGHTS WELL BEFORE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 3:00 PM AUG 13. USUN NEEDS TO BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROCESS, BOTH TO SHAPE OUTCOME OF DEBATE AND TO DEMONSTRATE THAT OUR UNPRECEDENTED ISOLATION (IN WAKE OF OUR JULY VETO OF ME RESOLUTION) HAS NOT DEPRIVED US OF LEVERAGE.

2. LEBANESE WILL WISH TO CONFINE RES (BUT NOT RHETORIC  
CONFIDENTIAL

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OF DEBATE) TO AIRCRAFT INCIDENT. THEY WILL WISH TO CONDEMN ISRAELI ACTION AS STRONGLY AS POSSIBLE; ARABS WILL SURMISE FROMHDEPARTMENT'S PRESS LINE THAT US WOULD VOTE "YES" ON RESOLUTION "DEPLORING" ISRAELI ACTION AND PROBABLY WOULD GO

ALONG WITH "CONDEMNING" RES.

3. MORE DIFFICULT FOR US WILL BE STRONG ARAB IMPULSE TO SEEK PUNITIVE ACTION AGAINST ISRAEL. THERE WILL BE RHETORICAL DEMANDS FOR STRONG SANCTIONS. EVEN LEBANESE AMBASSADOR GHORRA, PERHAPS MOST MODERATE AND PRAGMATIC OF ARAB PERMREPS, IS REPORTED TO BE SEEKING LANGUAGE CALLING FOR "MEASURES" AGAINST ISRAEL. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER GHORRA CAN COME UP WITH SOMETHING WE COULD LIVE WITH. WE SHALL HAVE TO PLAY THIS ONE CAREFULLY, BOTH TO AVOID TACTICAL PITFALLS IN CURRENT SC AND TO REDUCE LIKELIHOOD THAT UNACCEPTABLE RESOLUTION WILL BE SUCCESSFULLY PRESSED BY ARABS IN 28TH GA.

4. FACT THAT LEBANESE DRAFT LIKELY TO CONTAIN TWO ELEMENTS (CONDEMNATION OF ISRAELI ACTION AND SOME KIND OF "MEASURES") PRESENTS US WITH TACTICAL PROBLEM. ON FIRST OF THESE ELEMENTS, WE WOULD FIND IT HELPFUL TO HAVE GUIDANCE SOONEST AS TO HOW FAR WE MIGHT ULTIMATELY BE AUTHORIZED TO GO. ON SECOND ELEMENT, BELIEVE WE SHOULD TELL GHORRA ASAP THAT WE WOULD VOTE AGAINST ANY LANGUAGE PROVIDING FOR UNREALISTIC PUNITIVE MEASURES. THIS WOULD PROVIDE LEBANESE SOME LEVERAGE TO USE AGAINST THEIR MORE EXTREME FRIENDS, SOME OF WHOM WOULD LIKE TO FORCE US TO VETO AT LEAST ONCE IN THIS DEBATE. IF WE ANNOUNCED IN ADVANCE THAT WE WOULD VETO ANY KIND OF "MEASURES" LANGUAGE WHATSOEVER, WE WOULD BE ANNOUNCING OUR READY VULNERABILITY TO EFFORT PRODUCE ANOTHER US VETO. SOVIETS ET AL WILL BE QUICK TO POINT OUT TO ARABS THAT THEY CAN HAVE IT BOTH WAYS -- I.E. EMERGE FROM MEETING WITH CONDEMNATORY RESOLUTION, AND FORCE US TO VETO SANCTIONS PARAGRAPH.

5. GHORRA'S "FRIENDS" WILL KEEP PRESSURE ON HIM TO GO BEYOND WHAT LEBANON ITSELF COULD LIVE WITH. EVEN LEBANON, HOWEVER, WILL VIEW DEBATE AS TEST OF US POLICY ON ME. UN COMMUNITY WILL BE WATCHING NOT ONLY FOR SIGNS OF CHANGE IN OUR POLICY. WILL ALSO WISH TO SEE WHETHER WE CAN CONTINUE FOLLOW OUR FUNDAMENTAL STRATEGY FOR ULTIMATELY BRINGING ARABS TO CONFERENCE TABLE WHILE REFUSING TO CONDONE AN ISRAELI  
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ACTION THAT FLOUTS OUR STRONGLY HELD VIEWS ON INTERNATIONAL LAW AND ORDER.

SCALI

UNQUOTE ROGERS

CONFIDENTIAL

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**To:** BEIRUT  
**TEL AVIV**  
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